

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

*sub b*  
*10*  
An illumination apparatus comprising:

an LED light source;

a light guide plate having a groove portion for

5 receiving said LED light source, and character portions  
formed by concave portions or convex portions with  
desired shapes, said character portions being provided  
on a back surface of said light guide plate; and

a base member covering said back surface and said

10 groove portion of said light guide plate, said base  
member being bonded to said light guide plate in a  
circumferential edge portion of said base member.

2. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1,

15 wherein said groove portion is formed in said back  
surface of said light guide plate.

3. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein said light guide plate and said base member are  
20 made of one and the same material, and said light guide  
plate and said base member are bonded to each other by  
welding.

4. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1,

25 wherein said character portions are constituted by

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convex portions, and a second groove portion is provided in said back surface of said light guide plate so as to follow outer circumferences of said convex portions.

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5. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a metal layer is formed on said character portions, or on said back surface of said light guide plate except portions where said character portions are 10 formed.

6. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a light emission observable surface of said base member has light reflection property.

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7. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said illumination apparatus is a scuff plate installed on a side step portion of a car.

20 8. An illumination apparatus comprising:

an LED light source;

a light guide plate having a groove portion for receiving said LED light source, and character portions formed by concave portions or convex portions with 25 desired shapes, said character portions being provided

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on a back surface of said light guide plate; and  
a base member covering said back surface and said  
groove portion of said light guide plate;  
wherein said base member is hermetically bonded  
5 to said light guide plate in a circumferential edge  
portion of said base member, thereby hermetically  
sealing said LED light source.

9. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,  
10 wherein said groove portion is formed in said back  
surface of said light guide plate.

10. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,  
wherein said light guide plate and said base member are  
15 made of one and the same material, and said light guide  
plate and said base member are bonded to each other by  
welding.

11. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,  
20 wherein said character portions are constituted by  
convex portions, and a second groove portion is  
provided in said back surface of said light guide plate  
so as to follow outer circumferences of said convex  
portions.

12. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,  
wherein a metal layer is formed on said character  
portions, or on said back surface of said light guide  
plate except portions where said character portions are  
5 formed.

13. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,  
wherein a light emission observable surface of said  
base member has light reflection property.

14. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,  
wherein said illumination apparatus is a scuff plate  
installed on a side step portion of a car.

15. A illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,  
wherein a flange portion is formed in a circumferential  
edge portion of said light guide plate, and an end wall  
of said circumferential edge portion of said base  
member is bonded to said flange portion.  
fig. 3

16. A illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,  
further comprising a light permeable sheet member  
provided on a emission observable surface side of said  
light guide plate.

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